

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.
Currently, claims 1-16 and 20-31 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 2-3, 5 and 20 were indicated as being allowable.

The Office Action also indicated that claims 25 and 30 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 25 and 30 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 25 and 30 are therefore allowable.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1, 4, 6-16, 21-24 and 26-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Martin (U.S. '519) in view of Linebarger et al (U.S. '897, hereinafter "Linebarger"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, all of the claimed limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Martin and Linebarger fails to teach or suggest each limitation of the claimed invention. For example, the combination fails to teach or suggest a training apparatus for training a user to engage in transactions with another person as required by independent claim 1 and its dependents.

While Martin discloses a speech interpreter with a unified grammar compiler, Martin fails to teach or suggest a training system in any way. Indeed, the Office Action

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admits “Martin does not expressly specify the interactive spoken dialogue can be used for training as claimed.” (See page 3, lines 14-15 of the Office Action). Applicant submits that Martin fails to disclose a training apparatus at all.

Like Martin, Linebarger also fails to teach or suggest a training apparatus. Linebarger therefore fails to remedy the above described deficiencies of Martin. The Office Action states “In fact, Linebarger teaches system being used for training user in order to speak or pronounce correctly (Abstract, col. 2, lines 10-67, col. 10, lines 4-14, col. 13, lines 28-37, for example), and recognizing spoken language accuracy (col. 2, col. 10, lines 4-14, col. 13, lines 28-37, for example).” Applicant respectfully disagrees with this allegation. None of the above cited passages in Linebarger discloses a system for training a user to speak or pronounce words correctly. Col. 13, lines 28-37 cited in the Office Action does not even exist in Linebarger!

The Office Action further states “This would motivate practitioner in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Martin disclosure by incorporating the training feature as taught in Linebarger into speech interpreter to process and recognize user speech and to train user to speak properly.” Applicant respectfully disagrees with this allegation. As noted above, Linebarger is not even directed toward a training apparatus and thus “...incorporating the training feature as taught in Linebarger” (see page 3, line 20 - page 4, line 2 of the Office Action) is incorrect. There is no motivation to combine the teachings of Martin and Linebarger.

Applicant submits that the combination of Martin and Linebarger fails to teach or suggest the following additional features required by claim 1:

“(a) determine whether said input is an allowable response to a most recent one of the output messages represented by data stored in the output message buffer; and

(b) if said input is not determined to be an allowable response to a most recent one of the messages, determine whether said input is an allowable response to a preceding message represented by data stored in the output message buffer.”

Through the above feature, a training apparatus stores (for example) not only the most recent question asked by the training apparatus but also at least one previous question. The training apparatus interprets whether a user's input contains information relevant to a previous question asked by the training apparatus if it is determined that the user's input is not relevant to the most recent question. (See, e.g., page 15, lines 5-11 of the specification.)

Page 3, lines 8-12 of the Office Action appears to allege that the above claimed feature is disclosed by Figs. 3-4 and cols. 10-11, 15 and 18 of Martin. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this allegation. Martin fails to disclose any type of training apparatus, let alone a training apparatus having the above claimed additional features. Linebarger fails to remedy this deficiency of Martin.

Similar to claim 1, independent claim 24 requires, *inter alia*, the following features:

“(a) determine whether said input is an allowable response to a most recent one of the messages represented by data stored in the output message buffer; and

(b) if said input is determined not to be an allowable response to a most recent one of the messages, determine whether said input is an allowable response to another one of the messages represented by data stored in the output message buffer.”

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Independent claims 24 and 29 require similar features. As discussed above, the combination of Martin and Linebarger fails to teach or suggest these features.

Claim 6, which depends from independent claim 1, specifically requires “provid[ing] language training, in which said rules, said words, and said output are in a training target language, and further arranged to generate user guidance in a source language for said user and different to said target language (emphasis added).” Claim 27, which depends from independent claim 24, similarly requires “...provid[ing] language training, in which said rules, said words, and said output are in a training target language, and further being arranged to generate user guidance in a source language for said user and different to said target language (emphasis added).” The combination of Martin and Linebarger fails to teach or suggest this feature. Page 4, lines 7-8 of the Office Action states “As per claim 6, Martin discloses natural language processor for training model for a target language.” Even assuming arguendo that this is true, there is no further teaching or suggestion in Martin and Linebarger of providing user guidance in a source language different from the target language. If the next Office Action maintains the rejection over claims 6 and 27, Applicant respectfully requests that the next Office Action clarify specifically what portion(s) (i.e., what column and line number(s) and/or what Fig(s).) teaches or suggests these claimed limitations.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1, 4, 6-16, 21-24 and 26-29 are not “obvious” over Martin and Linebarger and thus respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

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New Claim:

New claim 31 has been added to provide additional protection for the invention.

New claim 31 requires, *inter alia*, a dialogue training apparatus. Applicant submits that new claim 31 is allowable.

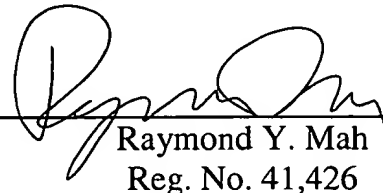
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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